



News Release

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Skagit County: Cape Horn residents urged to boil tap water *Third violation in calendar year leads to mandatory disinfection*

OLYMPIA — The Cape Horn Maintenance Company advises residents to boil their tap water because lab tests detected potentially harmful *E. coli* bacteria in the water. The system must now begin treating the water supply with disinfectant.

The advisory affects about 700 people in the residential and recreational community, which is on the Skagit River a few miles southwest of the Skagit County town of Concrete. This advisory doesn't apply to customers who get their water from the town of Concrete.

The bacteria were detected during a routine water quality monitoring test and confirmed in follow-up testing. This is the third detection with confirmed *E. coli* contamination in the past 12 months.

Because previous efforts to identify and eliminate the source of contamination haven't succeeded, the state Department of Health is requiring the water system to install permanent disinfection treatment. A properly designed and operated disinfection treatment kills *E. coli* bacteria.

Water & Waste Water Services, which operates the water system, has an approved design for a chlorination system and expects to have it running within a few days. The boil-water advisory will remain in effect until the water system establishes adequate levels of chlorine and additional water samples show the water is safe to drink.

When boiling tap water, the Department of Health recommends that residents heat the water to a brisk boil for one minute and allow the water to cool before use. This applies to any tap water used for drinking, brushing teeth, preparing food, making ice, or washing dishes.

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Cape Horn water will notify customers when the advisory ends. Customers who have questions about their water can call 360-466-4443 or 1-800-895-8821.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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